



DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

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Disaster Assistance Available for Small Businesses

Sacramento, CA - Small, non-farm businesses in the following Texas counties (plus neighboring counties in New Mexico and Oklahoma) may now apply for low-interest disaster loans from the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA). These disaster loans offset economic losses because of reduced revenues to farmers and ranchers caused by adverse weather conditions throughout the state, announced Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA's Disaster Field Operations Center - West.

Small businesses in the following primary and neighboring counties may apply for working capital loans to offset economic losses that are attributable to the impact of the following weather conditions and incident dates in each disaster:

EIDL	Primary Counties	Neighboring Counties	Incident Type	Incident Date	Deadline
10590	Knox	Baylor, Foard, Haskell, King, Stonewall & Throckmorton	hail	7/11/06	4/23/07
10591	Willacy	Cameron, Hidalgo & Kenedy	drought, high temperatures & high winds	beginning 1/1/06	4/23/07
10593	Dallam, Hardeman, Jim Wells, Kinney, San Patricio, Wilson & Zavala	Aransas, Atascosa, Bee, Bexar, Brooks, Childress, Cottle, Dimmit, Duval, Edwards, Foard, Frio, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Hartley, Karnes, Kleberg, La Salle, Live Oak, Maverick, Medina, Moore, Nueces, Refugio, Sherman, Uvalde, Val Verde & Wilbarger; the New Mexico county of Union; and the Oklahoma counties of Cimarron, Harmon & Jackson	drought	beginning 1/1/06	4/16/07
10594	Red River	Bowie, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris & Titus; and the Oklahoma counties of Choctaw & McCurtain	drought & excessive heat	beginning 1/1/06	4/23/07
10595	Fannin, Hopkins, Hunt, Jeff Davis & Lavaca	Brewster, Collin, Colorado, Culberson, Delta, DeWitt, Fayette, Franklin, Gonzales, Grayson, Hudspeth, Jackson, Kaufman, Lamar, Pecos, Presidio, Rains, Red River, Reeves, Rockwall, Van Zandt, Victoria, Wharton & Wood; and the Oklahoma county of Bryan	drought	beginning 1/1/06	4/23/07

Small businesses may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) of up to \$1.5 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred. "Eligibility for these loans is based on the financial impact of the disaster only and not on any actual property damage. These

loans have an interest rate of 4%, a maximum term of 30 years, and are restricted to small businesses without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship,” Judd said.

By law, SBA makes EIDLs available when the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. Secretary Mike Johanns declared these disasters at the request of Governor Rick Perry.

Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are not eligible for SBA disaster assistance. Agricultural enterprises should contact the Farm Services Agency (FSA) about the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) assistance made available by the Secretary’s declaration. However, in drought disasters nurseries are eligible for SBA disaster assistance.

For information and application forms call toll-free (800) 659-2955, or visit SBA’s website at www.sba.gov/disaster. Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339.

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